GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:238
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
INCREASING CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has amended its Censorship of Film Rules removing India specific restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this step is likely to increase cultural relations between the two countries;

(d) whether India also proposes to ease visa restrictions to Pakistani poets, musicians and actors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken or being taken by both the countries to increase cultural relations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) − (c) According to Pakistani media reports, on 5 June 2006 the Pakistan Ministry of Culture has amended the 1980 Film Rule Act which would reportedly allow Pakistani film-makers to cast Indian actors in their films.

(d) − (e) During talks in the framework of the Composite Dialogue, India has proposed to Pakistan that a liberal visa regime be established for cultural and literary personalities. India has been implementing such a liberal visa policy unilaterally.

In order to increase cultural relations between the two countries, India has proposed, inter alia, removal of the existing ban on Indian films, TV channels and media products by Pakistan, holding of a festival of Pakistani films in New Delhi and Mumbai, World Punjabi Festival in Pakistan and India and the setting up of a Joint Working Group to tackle piracy of Indian films and music in Pakistan.